

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1-27. (Cancelled)

28. (Previously Presented) A package for preserving a dental implant, comprising:

an external capsule;

a cap sealingly engaging the external capsule; and

an ampoule for holding the dental implant,

wherein a means is provided to releasably connect to the ampoule such that the means and the ampoule remain connected after removing the cap and the ampoule from the external capsule, said means comprising an actuation knob adapted to cause separation of the ampoule from the means when actuated in the axial direction of the ampoule.

29. (Previously Presented) The package according to claim 28, wherein the means forms an integral part of the cap, such that the means releasably connects the ampoule to the cap, said actuation knob extending from an external surface of the cap.

30. (Previously Presented) The package according to claim 28, wherein the means for releasably connecting the ampoule with the cap comprises a snap coupling between the ampoule and the cap, the snap coupling being releasable in an axial direction of the external capsule.

31. (Canceled)

32. (Previously Presented) The package according to claim 28, wherein the cap is threadingly engaged with the external capsule and includes a downward extension which, in an assembled state of the package, protrudes between the external capsule and the ampoule to snap engage into a groove of the ampoule.

33. (Previously Presented) The package according to claim 28, wherein the cap comprises a top portion made of a resilient or elastic material which is in contact with the ampoule, such that upon axially depressing the actuation knob operatively connected to the top portion of the cap the downward extension of the cap becomes disengaged from a circular groove of the ampoule, thereby separating the ampoule from the cap.

34. (Withdrawn) The package according to claim 29, wherein the cap comprises a first engagement means for engaging a knob, which is accommodated within the cap, and for selectively engaging the ampoule upon a downward movement of the cap in respect to the axis of the external capsule, such that the knob and the ampoule are both engaged, and wherein preferably upon the downward movement of the cap the knob protrudes from the cap, such that upon depressing a knob the first engagement means separates from the ampoule.

35. (Withdrawn) The package according to claim 29, further comprising a membrane provided in respect to the top opening the external capsule.

36. (Withdrawn) The package according to claim 34, further comprising a membrane provided in respect to the top opening the external capsule.

37. (Withdrawn) The package according to claim 36, wherein the membrane is perforated and cut by a snap mechanism provided on the first engagement means, the snap mechanism perforating and cutting the membrane upon the downward movement of the cap, the snap mechanism further providing for coupling with the ampoule upon the downward movement of the cap.

38. (Previously Presented) The package according to claim 28, wherein, in the closed state of the package, the means is surrounded by the cap and extends therein.

39. (Withdrawn and Previously Presented) The package according to claim 38, further comprising an ampoule for holding the medical device, wherein the means is adapted for releasingly connecting to the ampoule.

40. (Withdrawn and Previously Presented) The package according to claim 39, wherein the means comprises a press-fit mechanism which releasably engages both the ampoule and the external capsule.

41. (Withdrawn and Previously Presented) The package according to claim 40 wherein the means slidably accommodates a knob which, in the closed state of the package, contacts the ampoule.

42. (Withdrawn) The package according to claim 41, wherein the press-fit mechanism becomes separated from the ampoule when the knob is actuated in a downward axial direction of the external capsule.

43. (Withdrawn and Previously Presented) The package according to claim 38, wherein the means defines a seal between the opening of the external capsule and the cap in the assembled state of the device.

44. (Previously Presented) The package according to claim 28, wherein the package further comprises sealing means closing the open end of the capsule.

45. (Withdrawn) The package according to claim 44, further comprising an ampoule for holding the medical device, wherein the means is adapted for releasably connecting the ampoule with the cap upon removing the cap and the ampoule from the external capsule.

46. (Withdrawn) The package according to claim 45, wherein the means for releasably connecting the ampoule with the cap comprises a snap coupling between the ampoule and the cap, the snap coupling being releasable in an axial direction of the external capsule.

47. (Withdrawn) The package according to claim 45, wherein the means for releasably connecting the ampoule with the cap comprises an actuation knob.

48. (Withdrawn) The package according to claim 45, wherein the cap engages the external capsule by means of a bayonet lock, and wherein the sealing means comprises a membrane.

49. (Withdrawn) The package according to claim 47, wherein the knob is slidably received in an opening of the cap and is held in place by a lock mechanism formed of a groove on the knob with a flange on the cap, when the package is in the closed state.

50. (Withdrawn) The package according to claim 47, wherein the cap comprises a first means for engaging the ampoule upon a downward movement of the cap in respect to the axis of the external capsule, such that the knob, which is snappingly held in place in the cap, and the ampoule are mutually engaged, and wherein the knob protrudes from the cap, such that upon depressing a knob the first means separates from the ampoule.

51. (Withdrawn) The package according to claim 50, wherein the ampoule has a tip end portion which engages the first means upon the completion of the downward movement of the cap, such that the tip end portion contacts the lower surface knob.

52. (Withdrawn) The package according to claim 50, wherein the cap further comprises a perforating and cutting means for perforating and cutting the sealing means upon the downward movement of the cap in respect to the axis of the external capsule, and wherein preferably the perforating and cutting means is slightly longer than the first means, such that during the downward movement the perforating and cutting action thereof occurs prior to the engagement of the first means.

53. (Canceled)

54. (Withdrawn) The package according to claim 39, wherein the medical device is a dental implant which is held within the ampoule.

55. (Withdrawn) The package according to claim 45, wherein the medical device is a dental implant which is held within the ampoule.

56. (Previously Presented) The package according to claim 28, further comprising a fluid, such as an electrolyte or an aqueous solution, within the external capsule.

57. (Withdrawn) The package according to claim 38, further comprising a fluid, such as an electrolyte or an aqueous solution, within the external capsule.

58. (Withdrawn) The package according to claim 44, further comprising a fluid, such as an electrolyte or an aqueous solution, within the external capsule.

59. (Previously Presented) The package according to claim 28, wherein the external capsule is made of cyclo-olefin copolymer, and/or wherein the ampoule is made of cyclo-olefin copolymer, and/or wherein the cap is made of high density polyethylene or low density polyethylene.

60-61. (Canceled)